

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS.

1. (Currently Amended) A food waste disposer, comprising:
a food conveying section;
a grinding mechanism having a rotatable shredder plate that defines a horizontal plane and a stationary grind ring surrounding the rotatable shredder plane;
a motor housing that includes a motor operably connected to the grinding mechanism that rotates the rotatable shredder plate; and
a discharge chamber generally surrounding the grinding mechanism around and outside a periphery of the grind ring with at least an upper portion of the discharge chamber located above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate, the discharge chamber having a discharge port that is tangential to ~~a~~the rotatable shredder plate ~~that is rotatable by the motor~~ with at least a portion of the discharge port above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, wherein the discharge chamber and the grind ring define a gap therebetween.

7. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 6, wherein the gap defines a cross-sectional area that increases from a first location to the discharge port.

8. (Original) The food waste disposer of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of lugs attached to the shredder plate.

9. (Currently Amended) A food waste disposer, comprising:
a food conveying section;
a grinding mechanism having a rotatable shredder plate that defines a horizontal plane and a stationary grind ring surrounding the rotatable shredder plate;
a motor housing that includes a motor operably connected to the grinding mechanism that rotates the rotatable shredder plate; and
a discharge chamber generally surrounding the grinding mechanism around and outside a periphery of the grind ring with at least an upper portion of the discharge chamber and at least an upper portion of a discharge port of the discharge chamber located above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate wherein the motor is a brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor.

10 – 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a food waste disposer including a grinding mechanism, the grinding mechanism having a stationary grind ring and a shredder plate that is rotatable relative to the grind ring, the shredder plate defining a horizontal plane, the method comprising:

receiving food waste into the grinding mechanism;
rotating the shredder plate to grind the food waste against the grinding mechanism; and

discharging the ground food waste from the grinding mechanism tangentially to the shredder plate via a discharge chamber surrounding the grinding mechanism around and outside a periphery of the grind ring with at least an upper portion of the discharge chamber above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate and through a discharge port of the discharge chamber that is tangential to the shredder plate.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein rotating the shredder plate includes operating a brushless permanent magnet motor having a shaft connected to the shredder plate.

21. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 9, wherein the brushless permanent magnet (BPM) motor comprises a rotor, a shaft and a stator.

22. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the rotor comprises permanent magnets.

23. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the shaft has an upper end that passes through a bearing/sealing mechanism and connects to the shredder plate of the grinding mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) The food waste disposer of claim 21, wherein the stator is formed from a plurality of laminations and comprises windings situated around a plurality of stator teeth.

25. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 1 wherein the discharge chamber is above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate.

26. (New) The food waste disposer of claim 9 wherein the discharge chamber is above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate.

27. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein discharging the food waste from the grinding mechanism tangentially to the shredder plate via a discharge chamber includes discharging it tangentially to the shredder plate via the discharge chamber wherein the discharge chamber is above the horizontal plane defined by the rotatable shredder plate.